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# CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER

**24-Hour Report** 

7 FEBRUARY 2020

#### (U) CALIFORNIA

# (U) San Diego – Eighteen People Arrested on Suspicion of Entering US Illegally by Sea

(U) Eighteen people were arrested who are suspected of entering the country illegally on two boats intercepted off the coast of San Diego. The first vessel was a single-engine panga traveling several miles off shore with its lights off. Seven men and one woman were found on the boat and all admitted to being Mexican nationals. A second panga with ten men on board was discovered a few hours later. Nine Mexican nationals and a Guatemalan national, all of whom admitted to being in the US without authorization, were detained. Three individuals were identified as human smugglers and the vessels were seized.

SOURCE: 6 February 2020, San Diego Union-Tribune

#### (U) NATIONAL

## (U) District of Colombia – White House Advises US Killed Qassim al-Rimi, Leader of al Qa'ida in Yemen

(U) Washington – The White House announced that the US has killed Qassim al-Rimi, the leader of al Qa'ida in the Arabian Peninsula. The statement stated that al-Rimi was killed in Yemen but it did not say when. The counter-terrorism operation was conducted at the direction of President Donald Trump. Al-Rimi was placed on the US most wanted terrorist list after taking over al-Qa'ida's Yemen affiliate in 2015.

SOURCE: 6 February 2020, NBC News

#### (U) District of Colombia – FBI Says Racially-Motivated Extremists Elevated to 'National Threat Priority'

(U) Washington – The FBI has elevated its assessment of the threat posed by racially motivated violent extremists in the US to a "national treat priority" for fiscal year 2020. Director Wray stated that the risk of violence from such groups "on the same footing" as threats posed to the country by foreign terrorist organizations such as ISIS and its sympathizers. Racially or ethnically motivated violent extremists, or domestic terrorists motivated by racial or religious hatred, make up a "huge chunk" of the FBI's domestic terrorism investigations. Racially-motivated violent extremists were the primary source of ideologically-motivated violence in 2018 and 2019.

SOURCE: 6 February 2020, CBS News

#### (U) Illinois – 'White Rabbit' Militia Group Planned Multi-State Terror Campaign

(U) Long Island – The Illinois-based "White Rabbit" militia, described by law enforcement officials as a domestic terror organization with alleged leaders having been arrested, had plans to unleash right-wing and white power-motivated attacks across several states. The White Rabbit leaders, charged with the 2017 firebomb attack on a mosque and an attempted attack on an abortion clinic, had a plans for future attacks in several states including Minnesota, Illinois, and Missouri. Authorities collected weapons and explosives that was to be used in a much wider scheme initially believed.

SOURCE: 6 February 2020, ABC Chicago

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#### (U) Texas – Alleged Mass Shooting Suspect Hit with Federal Hate-Crime Charges

(U) El Paso – The alleged gunman who killed 22 people at a Walmart store in El Paso, Texas, in August 2019 was hit with federal hate crimes. The suspect, already facing capital murder charges, pled not guilty in October after being indicted by an El Paso County grand jury. The suspect allegedly told investigators following his arrest that he set out to kill as many Mexicans as he could after driving from his home in Allen, Texas to El Paso. The suspect was indicted by prosecutors on 90 federal charges and could face the death penalty.

SOURCE: 6 February 2020, ABC News

#### (U) INTERNATIONAL

### (U) England - Teenager Arrested in Solihull over Terrorism Charges

(U) Solihull – West Midlands police arrested a teenage suspect in Solihull on suspicion of terrorism charges as part of an ongoing investigation. The arrest, carried out by the West Midlands Counter Terrorism Unit, was "on suspicion of assisting another to commit terrorism." Specifically, the suspect was caught assisting another individual to travel for terror purposes. According to authorities, this is the third arrest in recent days and the intelligence-led investigation is ongoing.

SOURCE: 7 February 2020, Coventry Live

#### (U) Israel – Fourteen People, Mostly Soldiers, Injured in Jerusalem Car-Ramming

(U) Jerusalem – A car ran down and injured 12 Israeli soldiers and two other people in Jerusalem before fleeing. Authorities described the incident as a suspected Palestinian terror attack. Palestinian unrest has been stoked in recent weeks in Arab neighborhoods of eastern parts of the city that Palestinians want for a state. The suspect was later apprehended by authorities.

SOURCE: 6 February 2020, Reuters

#### (U) Maldives – Police Arrest Three Men in Suspected ISIS Stabbing Attack

(U) Hulhumale – Three men, who may have connections to ISIS, were arrested in the Maldives following a stabbing attack that left three injured. The men allegedly targeted two Chinese nationals and an Australian on the island of Hulhamale. Officials are investigating a video on social media "claiming to be related" to the violence. The video features a Maldivian extremist group affiliated with ISIS and shows three masked men – with one accusing the Maldives of being run by infidels and threatening further attacks.

SOURCE: 6 February 2020, Fox News

- (U) PREPARED BY THE CALIFORNIA STATE THREAT ASSESSMENT CENTER.
- (U) FOR QUESTIONS OR CONCERNS, PLEASE EMAIL STAC@CALOES.CA.GOV, OR CALL 916-636-2900.